

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-14, 18-25, and 29-38 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1, 14, 18, 21, 23, 25, 29, 36, 37, and 38 have been amended, claims 2-4, 15-17, and 26-28 have been cancelled without prejudice, with claims 2 and 3 having been previously cancelled.

In the Office Action mailed March 20, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 12, 13, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Baker, et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 6,556,838). The Examiner also rejected claims 14-16, 25-27, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker, et al.,. The Examiner objected to claims 4-11, 17-24, and 28-35 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted that the foregoing claims would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully responds to this Office Action by way of the foregoing amendments. In accordance with the Examiner's instructions, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of prior dependent claims 2, 3, and 4. Independent claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of prior dependent claims 15, 16, and 17. Independent claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of prior dependent claims 26, 27, and 28. Each of independent claims 36, 37, and 38 have been amended to include limitations analogous to those found in the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled claims 2-4, 15-17, and 26-28.

Accordingly, each of the independent claims now recites limitations that include allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims, including those that depend from allowable independent claims, are in condition for allowance. Applicant further submits that the proposed changes add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Please charge Deposit Account No. 17-0026 for any fees associated with the Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time. Applicant does not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any extension of time fees or any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 17-0026. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the Applicant's attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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